Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 JUSE-00 /167 W

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: MTN, ETRD

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF INFORMAL DISCUSSION ON LICENSING

TEXTS

REF: (A) GENEVA 8162; (B) GENEVA 7590

1. IN ADDITION TO REFTELS REPORTING DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPANESE AND CANADIAN DELEGATIONS AND PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH MEXICANS, U.S. DEL HAS CONDUCTED INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH EC, NORDICS, NEW ZEALAND, INDIA, AND BRAZILIAN DELEGATIONS ON LICENSING AND POSSIBLE FUTURE WORK PROGRAM ON THE DRAFT LICENSING TEXTS. THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE REVEALED SOME REOCCURRING ISSUES DEALING PRIMARILY WITH THE SCOPE (DEFINITION) OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE DRAFT TEXTS.

2. CANADA, JAPAN, AND NORDIC DELEGATIONS SHARE A DIFFICULTY IN DISCUSSING THE AIL TEXT SOLELY IN TERMS OF A "SAFEGUARD SITUATION". THEIR VIEW IS THAT A SURVEILLANCE MECHANISM MAY NOT RESTRICT IMPORTS AND, THEREFORE, NOT BE ASSOCIATED WITH A SAFEGUARD OR PRE-SAFEGUARD SITUATION.

INDEED, THE NORDIC (HAGFORS) AND CANADIAN DELS HAVE STATED THAT THE PRIMARY INTENTION OF SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM IS TO AVOID RECOURSE TO ANY RESTRICTIVE MEASURES.

ACCORDING TO NORDIC SPOKESMAN, SWEDEN AND NORWAY HAVE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS IN PLACE ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS WHILE FINLAND HAS A LEGAL AUTHORITY TO INTRODUCE SUCH A SYSTEM. WHILE NEW ZEALAND DOES NOT HAVE AN AIL SYSTEM, IT IS CONSIDERING ADOPTING AN AIL FOR SURVEILLANCE PURPOSES WHEN PRESENT RESTRICTIVE SYSTEM IS ELIMINATED. THEREFORE, NEW ZEALAND DEL IS SEEKING NEW INSTRUCTIONS TO TAKE ACCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A NEW SYSTEM.

3. BRAZIL (MOURAO) AND MEXICO (DELGADO) HAVE DIFFICULTIES WITH THE LICENSING TO ADMINISTER IMPORT RESTRICTIONS (LAIR) TEXTS, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO ITS REFERENCE TO "RESTRICTION". IN THEIR VIEW, LICENSING SYSTEM IS USED FOR A VARIETYOF REASONS AND NOT NECESSARILY TO ADMINISTER RESTRICTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN BRAZIL THE GIA IMPORTACO IS ISSUED AUTOMATICALLY (WITHIN TEN DAYS) UNLESS THE IMPORTER IS SEEKING DUTY EXEMPTIONS (E.G., UNDER THE LAW OF SIMILARS). SINCE SYSTEM IS NOT USED TO ADMINISTER IMPORT RESTRICTIONS SUCH AS A QR, BRAZIL BELIEVES THAT THE GIA SYSTEM FALLS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE AIL TEXT. U.S. DEL COMMENTED THAT, IN OUR VIEW, THE GIA SYSTEM IS NOT AN AUTOMATIC ONE. MEXICO HAS TAKEN A SIMILAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIEW WHICH WAS EXEMPLIFIED IN THEIR RESERVATION ON THE USE OF THE TERM "RESTRICTION" IN THE TITLE OF THE TEXT. INDIA POINTED OUT THAT ITS OPEN GENERAL LICENSING REGIME IS NOT A LICENSING SYSTEM IN THE SENSE OF LAIR, BUT IS AN ARCHAIC EXPRESSION USED FOR IMPORTS NOT SUBJECT TO RESTRICTION. INDIA DOES MAINTAIN A LICENSING SYSTEM TO RESTRICT SOME IMPORTS THAT WOULD FALL WITHIN THE LAIR TEXT.

4. FUTURE WORK: ALL DELS CONTACTED, INCLUDING THE EC, HAVE EVIDENCED A WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY FUTURE WORK ON THE LICENSING TEXTS ALTHOUGH NONE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY HAVE HIGH INTEREST IN PRESSING AHEAD. THEREFORE, MOVEMENT IN THIS AREA WILL DEPEND UPON THE U.S. GENERATING SUFFICIENT INTEREST. IN LIGHT OF THESE PRELIMINARY CONTACTS WE PLAN TO CONVENE AN INFORMAL PLURILATERAL GROUP TO UNDERTAKE A REVIEW OF BOTH TEXTS ON JUNE 16. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SESSION WOULD BE TO GAIN BETTER FOCUS OF KEY PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED AND ATTEMPT TO CLEAN UP HEAVILY BRACKETED TEXTS. AS NOTED IN REF (A), U.S. DEL HAS DETAILED PAPER ON THE LAIR TEXT BUT HAS NO SUCH

PAPER WITH RESPECT TO THE AIL TEXT. IF U.S. MTN DEL IS TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL INPUT ON THE AIL DRAFTING, WE WOULD APPRECIATE A DETAILED TEXT ON THIS PAPER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. DRAFTED BY WALLAR. MCDONALD

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